

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A mailing machine comprising:

transport means for transporting mail pieces along a transport path;

printing means for printing a postage indicia on the mail pieces transported by the transport means, the postage indicia including a barcode and human-readable numerals that represent a postage amount;

~~print control means coupled to the printing means for controlling the printing means;~~

reading means, located adjacent the transport path, for reading the barcode and the human-readable numerals; ~~and~~

comparing means coupled to the reading means for comparing a postage amount represented by data read from the barcode with the postage amount represented by the human-readable numerals; and

means for halting the transport means in response to the postage amount represented by data read from the barcode not matching with the postage amount represented by the human-readable numerals.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a mailing machine, the method comprising:

transporting mail pieces along a transport path;

printing a postage indicia on at least some of the mail pieces transported along the transport path, the postage indicia including a barcode and human-readable numerals that represent a postage amount;

reading the barcode and the human-readable numerals by using a reader mounted on the mailing machine;

receiving data from a postage security device; ~~and~~

comparing a postage amount represented by data read from the barcode with the postage amount represented by the human-readable numerals; and

halting the transporting of mail pieces in response to the postage amount represented by data read from the barcode not matching with the postage amount represented by the human-readable numerals.

16. (Canceled)